

Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.



American Society of Hematology

Patients with CLL have lower risk of death from COVID-19 in the omicron era.

Tracking no: BLD-2022-016147R1

Carsten Niemann (Rigshospitalet, Denmark) Caspar da Cunha-Bang (Rigshospitalet, Denmark) Marie Helleberg (Rigshospitalet, Denmark) Sisse Ostrowski (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) Christian Brieghel (Copenhagen University, Rigshospitalet, Denmark)

Abstract:

Previous studies have shown that patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have high mortality rates. Infection with the omicron variant has been described as a milder disease course in the general population. However, the outcome for immunocompromised patients have not previously been reported. In a cohort of patients with CLL tested for severe adult respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) at hospital test sites in the time periods before and after dominance of the omicron variant, rates of hospitalizations and ICU-admissions declined significantly, whereas 30-day mortality remained as high as 23% in the period with dominance of the omicron sublineage BA.2 variant. However, for a larger populationbased cohort of patients with CLL (including the hospital cohort), 30-day mortality was 2%. Thus, patients with CLL with close hospital contactss and in particular those above 70 years of age with one or more comorbidities should be considered for closer monitoring and pre-emptive antiviral therapy upon a positive SARS-CoV-2 test.

Conflict of interest: COI declared - see note

COI notes: CUN received research funding and/or consultancy fees outside this work from Abbvie, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Beigene, Roche, CSL Behring, Takeda and Octapharma. CB received consultancy fess outside of this work from AstraZeneca. The remaining authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Preprint server: Yes; medRxiv https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.03.01.22271685

Author contributions and disclosures: SRO, CUN, CB and CdC developed the concept of the study, CB, CUN and CdC collected and curated data, CB performed statistical analyses, MH provided infectious disease and clinical perspectives and interpretation, CUN wrote the first draft of the paper, all authors contributed to and approved the final version

Non-author contributions and disclosures: No;

Agreement to Share Publication-Related Data and Data Sharing Statement: Upon reasonable request to the corresponding author, data will be shared with the restrictions applied due to GDPR and data privacy.

Clinical trial registration information (if any):

Patients with CLL have lower risk of death from COVID-19 in the omicron era.

Carsten U Niemann^{1,2}, Caspar da Cunha-Bang¹, Marie Helleberg^{3,4}, Sisse Rye Ostrowski^{2,5,*} and Christian Brieghel^{1,6,*}

Running title:

Omicron COVID-19 in CLL

Corresponding author:

Carsten Utoft Niemann, MD, PhD, Associate Professor Consultant in Hematology:Internal Medicine Whatsapp: +45 50 59 10 94 Cell: +55 (61) 99611-1094 mail: carsten.utoft.niemann@regionh.dk Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital

Department of Hematology Building 5074 Blegdamsvej 9 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø

Denmark

Web: www.rigshospitalet.dk/CLL-lab

¹Department of Hematology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

²Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

³Department of Infectious Diseases, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

⁴Center of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

⁵Department of Clinical Immunology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

⁶Department of Hematology, Zealand University Hospital, Roskilde, Denmark

^{*}Co-senior authors

Abstract

Previous studies have shown that patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have high mortality rates. Infection with the omicron variant has been described as a milder disease course in the general population. However, the outcome for immunocompromised patients have not previously been reported. In a cohort of patients with CLL tested for severe adult respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) at hospital test sites in the time periods before and after dominance of the omicron variant, rates of hospitalizations and ICU-admissions declined significantly, whereas 30-day mortality remained as high as 23% in the period with dominance of the omicron sublineage BA.2 variant. However, for a larger population-based cohort of patients with CLL (including the hospital cohort), 30-day mortality was 2%. Thus, patients with CLL with close hospital contactss and in particular those above 70 years of age with one or more comorbidities should be considered for closer monitoring and pre-emptive antiviral therapy upon a positive SARS-CoV-2 test.

Key points

- In the era of the omicron variant of COVID-19, lower fatality rates in CLL are seen along with milder disease in the background population
- Patients with CLL who have hospital contact and test positive for SARS-CoV-2 should still be considered for pre-emptive therapy

Explanation of novelty

The omicron variant is reported to give milder disease in the general population; outcomes for immunocompromised patients have not been reported. Here, hospital- and population-based data on outcome in CLL upon infection with the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 warrants close monitoring and pre-emptive therapy upon a positive SARS-CoV-2 test for patients with CLL and frequent hospital contacts; other patients with CLL can expect a mild course of COVID-19.

Introduction

Patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) have increased morbidity and mortality following infection with severe adult respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) leading to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).^{1,2} The immune dysfunction inherent to CLL itself and CLL treatment whether targeted or chemoimmunotherapy based, is considered the likely cause of increased susceptibility to severe COVID-19.³ During the first and second pandemic wave, most CLL patients with COVID-19 developed severe disease and the 30-day mortality was 31-50% for those admitted, while one study indicates improved survival for patients with CLL upon COVID-19 later in the pandemic.^{1,2,4} Further, patients with CLL demonstrated impaired vaccination response in terms of ability to produce neutralizing anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, while the T-cell response was also impaired for part of the populations.⁵⁻⁸ Data on outcome upon infection with SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 (omicron) variant is warranted for immunocompromised patients in general and for patients with CLL in particular.⁹ The first Danish omicron case was detected on 25th Nov 2021. The variant became dominant in Denmark by 17th Dec 2021, enabling high levels of break-through infections among vaccinated individuals.¹⁰

In Denmark, all patients diagnosed with a hematological malignancy were offered third and fourth booster vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 in August 2021 and January 2022, respectively. At the same time, a single dose of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibody (mAb) was recommended for immunocompromised patients testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 with sotrovimab being the most widely used mAb in Denmark, while the standard of care for immunocompromised patients admitted with moderate to severe COVID-19 was dexamethasone, low molecular weight heparin and remdesivir. Remdesivir was widely used for hematological patients regardless of disease severity since approval mid-2020. Sotrovimab retained its neutralizing activities against the omicron BA.1 sublineage, but recently, in vitro studies have shown reduced activity against the BA.2 sublineage.

Methods

Insights into potential variation in clinical outcome for immunocompromised patients upon infection with the omicron variant is limited. Here we investigated the rate of hospitalization, admission to intensive care unit (ICU) and mortality following infection with SARS-CoV-2 among patients with CLL in a Danish cohort with SARS-CoV-2 PCR test from electronic health records

(EHR) between March 2020 through January 2022 (EHR cohort). Additionally, we analyzed a cohort of patients registered with a diagnosis of CLL in the Danish CLL registry¹⁷ for whom a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test was identified through the PERSIMUNE treatment database with microbiology data retrieved as previously described (population cohort). ¹⁸ As data on variants were missing for most patients, we grouped patients into four time periods based on the first positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR: Period 1: March 2020 - December 2020; Period 2: January 2021 - 25th November 2021 (first omicron case in Denmark); Period 3: 26th November 2021 - 31st December 2021; Period 4: 1st January 2022 - 28th January (omicron variant dominating from 17th December 2021 and sublineage BA.2 dominating from 1st January 2022). Data were retrieved from EHR covering a background population of approximately 2.8 million individuals. 19 We included all patients with a CLL diagnosis (ICD10 code DC91.1) and a positive PCR for SARS-CoV-2 within the EHR (EHR cohort). The population cohort initiates in September 2020, the time of introducing widespread testing outside the EHR. Patients with multiple positive PCR tests more than 12 weeks apart were considered as having reinfection. Baseline characteristics were stratified by timeperiod of first positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test (Table 1). Primary outcomes were time to hospital admission, time to ICU admission and 30-day mortality. We followed patients from date of first positive PCR until event, death or date of last follow-up (22nd February 2022 and 15th March 2022 for the EHR and population cohort, respectively). The study was approved by the Ethics Committee and Data Protection Agency.

Results and Discussion

Until 28th January 2022, 151 patients with CLL had 153 COVID-19 infections confirmed with a positive PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 in the EHR system for Eastern Denmark (EHR cohort). Two reinfections were identified with positive PCR tests more than a year apart. Additionally, we identified 640 patients within the Danish CLL registry with a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test outside the EHR system (population cohort). No reinfections in terms of patients with positive PCR tests more than 12 weeks apart were identified within this cohort (patients within the EHR cohort were excluded from the population cohort). Stratified by period, 59, 40, 32, and 22 patients in the EHR cohort were first PCR positive in time periods 1 to 4, respectively. In the population cohort, 24, 66, 73 and 477 patients were first PCR positive in periods 1 to 4, respectively. There were no significant differences in baseline characteristics between the four periods, but patients in the EHR

cohort were significantly older compared with patients in the population cohort (P = .0052) even though the patients in the EHR cohort were also diagnosed with CLL significantly more recently ((Table 1; P = .024). At least 43 of 109 (39%) and 190 of 640 (30%) patients in the EHR and population cohort, respectively, had received CLL therapy prior to testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 (P=.054. For the EHR cohort, the rate of hospitalizations for patients with CLL testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 was significantly higher (>75%) during the second period compared with periods 3 (omicron emergence) and 4 (omicron dominance), where preemptive mAb were administered during hospital admissions for patients with CLL upon a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test (Figure 1A; P<.014). During period 3 and 4, mAb were administered at outpatient visits, which likely explains the lower 30-day admission rates (56-60% vs 83%). ICU admission rates were highest prior to emergence of omicron (12-12.5% vs 0-3%, Figure 1B), which may reflect impact of a third and fourth booster vaccine, improved care for patients with COVID-19 and differences in severity between SARS-CoV-2 variants. 11,12,20 The ICU admission rates were lower than previously reported in international cohorts of COVID-19 in CLL (26% to 37% for hospitalized patients). ^{1,2} This could be due to the full implementation of early treatment with mAb, almost universal treatment with remdesivir for hospitalized patients without renal failure and high vaccination rates and administration of up to 30 L/min oxygen outside the ICU in Denmark.

For the EHR cohort, 30-day overall survival (OS) was above 75% in all four periods (77-91%, Figure 1C). Despite representing a cohort with close hospital connection (EHR cohort), these survival rates are slightly better than the previously reported OS rates for COVID-19 in CLL during the first part of the pandemic (64-73%); although one study reported a higher OS rate of 89% for CLL patients testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 after 1st May 2020. ^{1,2} Five out of six fatal cases (including deaths after 30 days) in period 3 were infected with the delta variant (missing variant information for the last case, data not shown). The five patients who died within 30 days of a positive SARS-CoV-2 test in period 4 were aged above 71 years and all had comorbidities, e.g. dementia, other malignant diseases, diabetes, cardiac and pulmonary comorbidities. Four of the five fatal cases had confirmed omicron variant, while variant data were missing for the last case. Three of the five patients died from respiratory failure while two patients died at home without known cause of death. Two of the fatal cases received mAb and dexamethasone, one of them also remdesivir; the three remaining fatal cases did not receive COVID-19 specific treatment. To assess whether the

EHR cohort was biased towards patients with more severe COVID-19 and/or CLL disease, we next identified the population cohort who tested PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2 outside the EHR system. Only OS could be assessed for this population. Gradually improving 30-days survival rates were demonstrated from periods 2 through 4 (93.9%, 94.5% and 99.2%, respectively; no deaths were seen in time period 1 which started 16 September 2020 with mass testing; P<.002; pairwise logrank, Figure 1D). When combining the two cohorts, 30-day OS rates gradually improved from periods 1 through 4 (88.0%, 89.6%, 93.3% and 98.2%, respectively) with a significantly higher OS in the omicron BA.2 period compared with periods 1-3 ($P \le .0077$; pairwise log-rank, Figure 1E).

Limitations apply to this study; the size of the EHR patient population was limited, patients with CLL testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 outside EHR test sites were only included in the population cohort. Thus, the improved outcome in the population cohort may reflect less severe CLL, less severe COVID-19 and/or less comorbidity.

Based on epidemiological data from South Africa, ²¹ the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 seems decoupled from the incidences of hospitalization and death upon emergence of the omicron variant, while previous vaccination seems to protect less against infection with the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. ²² This study indicate that omicron sublineage BA.2 pose a similar risk of fatal COVID-19 only for patients with impaired immune function due to CLL and a close hospital contact either due to CLL or COVID-19, ^{3,18} with an estimated 30-day OS rate of 77%. It should be emphasized that patients in the population cohort may also have been hospitalized, but no data on this were accessible. The overall population of patients with CLL seems to have a much milder course of COVID-19 during the era of the omicron variant, especially during BA.2 dominance, with a 30-day fatality rate of less than 2%. Thus, patients above 70 with CLL and one or more comorbidities and hospital contact due to CLL or COVID-19 should be considered for closer monitoring and pre-emptive antiviral therapy upon a positive SARS-CoV-2 test.

Acknowledgement: The study was supported by a COVID-19 grant from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science (0238-00006B) and the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF126); by the Danish Cancer Society and the EU funded CLL-CLUE for CUN. CB received funding from Weimann's Legat. The Capital Region of Denmark, Center for Economy, provided data extracts from the EHR system.

Authorship Contributions: SRO, CUN, CB and CdC developed the concept of the study, CB, CUN and CdC collected and curated data, CB performed statistical analyses, MH provided infectious disease and clinical perspectives and interpretation, CUN wrote the first draft of the paper, all authors contributed to and approved the final version

Conflicts of interest: CUN received research funding and/or consultancy fees outside this work from Abbvie, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Beigene, Roche, CSL Behring, Takeda and Octapharma. CB received consultancy fess outside of this work from AstraZeneca. The remaining authors declare no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

- 1. Chatzikonstantinou T, Kapetanakis A, Scarfò L, et al. COVID-19 severity and mortality in patients with CLL: an update of the international ERIC and Campus CLL study. Leukemia 2021;35(12):3444-3454. (In eng). DOI: 10.1038/s41375-021-01450-8.
- 2. Roeker LE, Eyre TA, Thompson MC, et al. COVID-19 in patients with CLL: improved survival outcomes and update on management strategies. Blood 2021;138(18):1768-1773. DOI: 10.1182/blood.2021011841.
- 3. Svanberg R, Janum S, Patten PEM, Ramsay AG, Niemann CU. Targeting the tumor microenvironment in chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Haematologica 2021. DOI: 10.3324/haematol.2020.268037.
- 4. Vijenthira A, Gong IY, Fox TA, et al. Outcomes of patients with hematologic malignancies and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis of 3377 patients. Blood 2020;136(25):2881-2892. DOI: 10.1182/blood.2020008824.
- 5. Mellinghoff SC, Robrecht S, Mayer L, et al. SARS-CoV-2 specific cellular response following COVID-19 vaccination in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Leukemia 2021:1-4. (In eng). DOI: 10.1038/s41375-021-01500-1.
- 6. Ehmsen S, Asmussen A, Jeppesen SS, et al. Antibody and T cell immune responses following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination in patients with cancer. Cancer Cell 2021;39(8):1034-1036. DOI: 10.1016/j.ccell.2021.07.016.
- 7. da Cunha-Bang C, Kirkby NS, Friis-Hansen L, Niemann CU. Serological response following vaccination with BNT162b2 mRNA in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Leuk Lymphoma 2022;63(2):503-505. DOI: 10.1080/10428194.2021.1973673.
- 8. Herishanu Y, Avivi I, Aharon A, et al. Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Blood 2021. DOI: 10.1182/blood.2021011568.
- 9. Christensen PA, Olsen RJ, Long SW, et al. Signals of Significantly Increased Vaccine Breakthrough, Decreased Hospitalization Rates, and Less Severe Disease in Patients

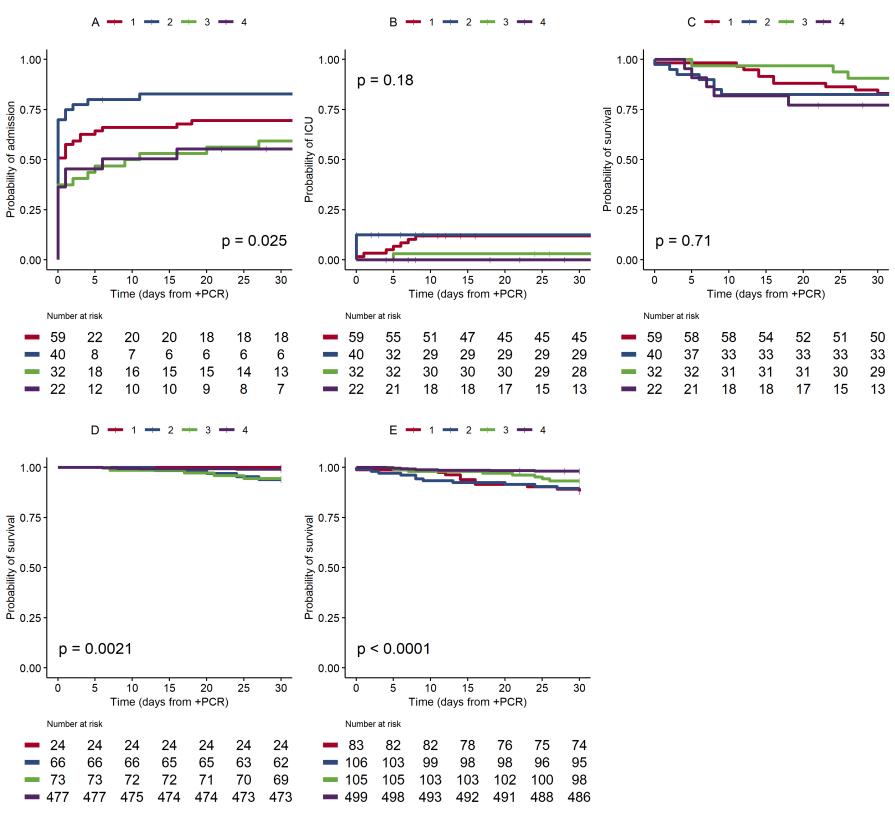
- with Coronavirus Disease 2019 Caused by the Omicron Variant of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Houston, Texas. Am J Pathol 2022. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2022.01.007.
- 10. Lyngse FP, Kirkeby CT, Denwood M, et al. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron VOC subvariants BA.1 and BA.2: Evidence from Danish Households. medRxiv 2022:2022.01.28.22270044. DOI: 10.1101/2022.01.28.22270044.
- 11. Helleberg M, Niemann CU, Moestrup KS, et al. Persistent COVID-19 in an Immunocompromised Patient Temporarily Responsive to Two Courses of Remdesivir Therapy. J Infect Dis 2020;222(7):1103-1107. DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jiaa446.
- 12. Helleberg M, Niemann CU, Moestrup KS, Kirk O, Lebech AM, Lundgren J. Response to Aviv et al. J Infect Dis 2021. DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jiab249.
- 13. Beigel JH, Tomashek KM, Dodd LE, et al. Remdesivir for the Treatment of Covid-19 Final Report. N Engl J Med 2020;383(19):1813-1826. (In eng). DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2007764.
- 14. Horby P, Lim WS, Emberson JR, et al. Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19. N Engl J Med 2021;384(8):693-704. (In eng). DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2021436.
- Takashita E, Kinoshita N, Yamayoshi S, et al. Efficacy of Antibodies and Antiviral Drugs against Covid-19 Omicron Variant. N Engl J Med 2022 (In eng). DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2119407.
- 16. Iketani S, Liu L, Guo Y, et al. Antibody Evasion Properties of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Sublineages. bioRxiv 2022:2022.02.07.479306. DOI: 10.1101/2022.02.07.479306.
- 17. da Cunha-Bang C, Geisler CH, Enggaard L, et al. The Danish National Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Registry. Clinical epidemiology 2016;8:561-565. DOI: 10.2147/CLEP.S99486.
- 18. Agius R, Brieghel C, Andersen MA, et al. Machine learning can identify newly diagnosed patients with CLL at high risk of infection. Nature communications 2020;11(1):363. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-019-14225-8.
- 19. Zucco AG, Agius R, Svanberg R, et al. Personalized survival probabilities for SARS-CoV-2 positive patients by explainable machine learning. medRxiv 2021:2021.10.28.21265598. DOI: 10.1101/2021.10.28.21265598.
- 20. Bhattacharyya RP, Hanage WP. Challenges in Inferring Intrinsic Severity of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant. N Engl J Med 2022;386(7):e14. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp2119682.
- 21. Madhi SA, Kwatra G, Myers JE, et al. Population Immunity and Covid-19 Severity with Omicron Variant in South Africa. N Engl J Med 2022. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2119658.
- 22. Magen O, Waxman JG, Makov-Assif M, et al. Fourth Dose of BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine in a Nationwide Setting. N Engl J Med 2022;386(17):1603-1614. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2201688.

Table 1: Patient Characteristics, stratified on cohort (EHR or population) and period of COVID-19 positive test; Period 1: 12th March and 16th September 2020 for EHR and population cohorts, respectively, to 31st- December 2020; Period 2: January 2021 to 25th November 2021, Period 3: 26th November 2021 to December 2021; Period 4: January 2022 to 28th January 2022 and 7th March 2022 for EHR and population cohorts, respectively. Data on monoclonal antibodies against COVID-19 (mAb), remdesivir and dexamethasone treatment upon COVID-19 for the different time periods were only available for the EHR cohort. Continuous variables summarized with median and interquartile range (IQR) were tested using Kruskal-Wallis tests, whereas categorical variables summarized by count (percentage) were tested using chi-square tests for differences across all eight subgroups. *P*-values were calculated using Log-rank test.

		Perio	od 1	Peri	od 2	Perio	od 3	Peri	od 4		
Cov	/ariate	EHR	Population	EHR	Population	EHR	Population	EHR	Population	Total	<i>P</i> -value
		(n= 59)	(n=24)	(n=40)	(n=66)	(n=32)	(n=73)	(n=22)	(n=477)	(n=793)	
Ago of DCD	mandian [imm]	71	70.5	77	70	74.5	70	76	72	72	0053
	median [iqr]	[64.5, 80.5]	[54.2, 74.5]	[68.2, 82.0]	[62, 78]	[69.8, 83.0]	[63, 77]	[72.0, 80.5]	[64, 77]	[64, 78]	.0052
Sex	Female	27 (45.8)	7 (29.2)	17 (42.5)	24 (36.4)	12 (37.5)	29 (39.7)	9 (40.9)	181 (37.9)	306 (38.6)	
	Male	32 (54.2)	17 (70.8)	23 (57.5)	42 (63.6)	20 (62.5)	44 (60.3)	13 (59.1)	296 (62.1)	487 (61.4)	.91
CLL	median	2017	2015	2015	2015	2016	2015	2017	2015	2015	
diagnosis	[iqr]	[2012, 2019]	[2011.8, 2016]	[2010, 2018]	[2013, 2016]	[2014, 2018]	[2013, 2017]	[2014, 2018]	[2012, 2017]	[2012, 2017]	.024
	missing	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	
Binet stage	Α	34 (87.2)	20 (83.3)	22 (75.9)	57 (86.4)	21 (95.5)	69 (94.5)	14 (73.7)	402 (84.3)	639 (85.3)	
	В	3 (7.7)	2 (8.3)	6 (20.7)	7 (10.6)	1 (4.5)	4 (5.5)	3 (15.8)	65 (13.6)	91 (12.1)	
	С	2 (5.1)	2 (8.3)	1 (3.4)	2 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.5)	10 (2.1)	19 (2.5)	.097
	missing	20	0	11	0	10	0	3	0	44	
IGHV	Unmutated	8 (28.6)	6 (33.3)	9 (39.1)	18 (33.3)	6 (40.0)	19 (33.9)	3 (20.0)	105 (27.0)	174 (29.1)	
status	Mutated	20 (71.4)	12 (66.7)	14 (60.9)	36 (66.7)	9 (60.0)	37 (66.1)	12 (80.0)	284 (73.0)	424 (70.9)	.70
	missing	31	6	17	12	17	17	7	88	195	
FISH	Del13q	18 (64.3)	11 (64.7)	10 (43.5)	28 (54.9)	9 (50.0)	34 (61.8)	7 (46.7)	221 (61.6)	338 (59.7)	
status	Normal	3 (10.7)	1 (5.9)	4 (17.4)	9 (17.6)	0 (0.0)	9 (16.4)	1 (6.7)	44 (12.3)	71 (12.5)	
	Tri12	4 (14.3)	3 (17.6)	3 (13.0)	6 (11.8)	5 (27.8)	9 (16.4)	3 (20.0)	53 (14.8)	86 (15.2)	
	Del11q	1 (3.6)	1 (5.9)	3 (13.0)	5 (9.8)	2 (11.1)	3 (5.5)	3 (20.0)	24 (6.7)	42 (7.4)	
	Del17p	2 (7.1)	1 (5.9)	3 (13.0)	3 (5.9)	2 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.7)	17 (4.7)	29 (5.1)	.68
	missing	31	7	17	15	14	18	7	118	227	
Admission	Yes	41 (69.5)	NA	33 (82.5)	NA	19 (59.4)	NA	12 (54.5)	NA	105 (68.6)	
	No	18 (30.5)	NA	7 (17.5)	NA	13 (40.6)	NA	10 (45.5)	NA	48 (31.4)	.075
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
ICU	Yes	7 (11.9)	NA	5 (12.5)	NA	1 (3.1)	NA	0 (0.0)	NA	13 (8.5)	
	No	52 (88.1)	NA	35 (87.5)	NA	31 (96.9)	NA	22 (100.0)	NA	140 (91.5)	.26
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
Died	Yes	10 (16.9)	0 (0.0)	7 (17.5)	4 (6.1)	3 (9.4)	4 (5.5)	5 (22.7)	4 (0.8)	37 (4.7)	
	No	49 (83.1)	24 (100.0)	33 (82.5)	62 (93.9)	29 (90.6)	69 (94.5)	17 (77.3)	473 (99.2)	756 (95.3)	< .0001
Dexa-	Yes	11 (18.6)	NA	16 (40.0)	NA	9 (28.1)	NA	4 (18.2)	NA	40 (26.1)	

methasone	No	48 (81.4)	NA	24 (60.0)	NA	23 (71.9)	NA	18 (81.8)	NA	113 (73.9)	.090
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
Remdesivir	Yes	12 (20.3)	NA	18 (45.0)	NA	8 (25.0)	NA	3 (13.6)	NA	41 (26.8)	
	No	47 (79.7)	NA	22 (55.0)	NA	24 (75.0)	NA	19 (86.4)	NA	112 (73.2)	.019
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
mAb	Yes	0 (0.0)	NA	10 (25.0)	NA	12 (37.5)	NA	8 (36.4)	NA	30 (19.6)	
	No	59 (100.0)	NA	30 (75.0)	NA	20 (62.5)	NA	14 (63.6)	NA	123 (80.4)	< .0001
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	

Fig 1: Kaplan-Meier curves for (A) admission to hospital, (B) admission to intensive care unit (ICU), (C) overall survival (OS) for the EHR cohort; (D) OS for the population cohort and (E) OS for the combined cohort. Data are stratified for the following time periods: Period 1: 12th March and 16th September 2020 for EHR and population cohorts, respectively, to December 2020; Period 2: January 2021 to 25th November 2021, Period 3: 26th November 2021 to December 2021; Period 4: January 2022 to 28th January 2022 and 7th March 2022 for EHR and population cohorts, respectively. Patients represented within the EHR cohort (A-C) are excluded from the population cohort (D). *P*-values were calculated using log-rank test for differences across the four subgroups.



		Period 1		Period 2		Period 3		Period 4			
Covariate		EHR	Population	EHR	Population	EHR	Population	EHR	Population	Total	<i>P</i> -value
		(n= 59) 71	(n=24) 70.5	(n=40) 77	(n=66) 70	(n=32) 74.5	(n=73) 70	(n=22) 76	(n=477) 72	(n=793) 72	
Age at PCR	median [iqr]	[64.5, 80.5]	70.5 [54.2, 74.5]	[68.2, 82.0]	70 [62, 78]	[69.8, 83.0]	70 [63, 77]	76 [72.0, 80.5]	[64, 77]	72 [64, 78]	.0052
Sex	Female	27 (45.8)	7 (29.2)	17 (42.5)	24 (36.4)	12 (37.5)	29 (39.7)	9 (40.9)	181 (37.9)	306 (38.6)	
	Male	32 (54.2)	17 (70.8)	23 (57.5)	42 (63.6)	20 (62.5)	44 (60.3)	13 (59.1)	296 (62.1)	487 (61.4)	.91
CLL	median	2017	2015	2015	2015	2016	2015	2017	2015	2015	
diagnosis	[iqr]	[2012, 2019]	[2011.8, 2016]	[2010, 2018]	[2013, 2016]	[2014, 2018]	[2013, 2017]	[2014, 2018]	[2012, 2017]	[2012, 2017]	.024
	missing	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	
Binet stage	Α	34 (87.2)	20 (83.3)	22 (75.9)	57 (86.4)	21 (95.5)	69 (94.5)	14 (73.7)	402 (84.3)	639 (85.3)	
	В	3 (7.7)	2 (8.3)	6 (20.7)	7 (10.6)	1 (4.5)	4 (5.5)	3 (15.8)	65 (13.6)	91 (12.1)	
	С	2 (5.1)	2 (8.3)	1 (3.4)	2 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.5)	10 (2.1)	19 (2.5)	.097
	missing	20	0	11	0	10	0	3	0	44	
IGHV	Unmutated	8 (28.6)	6 (33.3)	9 (39.1)	18 (33.3)	6 (40.0)	19 (33.9)	3 (20.0)	105 (27.0)	174 (29.1)	
status	Mutated	20 (71.4)	12 (66.7)	14 (60.9)	36 (66.7)	9 (60.0)	37 (66.1)	12 (80.0)	284 (73.0)	424 (70.9)	.70
	missing	31	6	17	12	17	17	7	88	195	
FISH	Del13q	18 (64.3)	11 (64.7)	10 (43.5)	28 (54.9)	9 (50.0)	34 (61.8)	7 (46.7)	221 (61.6)	338 (59.7)	
status	Normal	3 (10.7)	1 (5.9)	4 (17.4)	9 (17.6)	0 (0.0)	9 (16.4)	1 (6.7)	44 (12.3)	71 (12.5)	
	Tri12	4 (14.3)	3 (17.6)	3 (13.0)	6 (11.8)	5 (27.8)	9 (16.4)	3 (20.0)	53 (14.8)	86 (15.2)	
	Del11q	1 (3.6)	1 (5.9)	3 (13.0)	5 (9.8)	2 (11.1)	3 (5.5)	3 (20.0)	24 (6.7)	42 (7.4)	
	Del17p	2 (7.1)	1 (5.9)	3 (13.0)	3 (5.9)	2 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.7)	17 (4.7)	29 (5.1)	.68
	missing	31	7	17	15	14	18	7	118	227	
Admission	Yes	41 (69.5)	NA	33 (82.5)	NA	19 (59.4)	NA	12 (54.5)	NA	105 (68.6)	
	No	18 (30.5)	NA	7 (17.5)	NA	13 (40.6)	NA	10 (45.5)	NA	48 (31.4)	.075
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
ICU	Yes	7 (11.9)	NA	5 (12.5)	NA	1 (3.1)	NA	0 (0.0)	NA	13 (8.5)	
	No	52 (88.1)	NA	35 (87.5)	NA	31 (96.9)	NA	22 (100.0)	NA	140 (91.5)	.26
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
Died	Yes	10 (16.9)	0 (0.0)	7 (17.5)	4 (6.1)	3 (9.4)	4 (5.5)	5 (22.7)	4 (0.8)	37 (4.7)	
	No	49 (83.1)	24 (100.0)	33 (82.5)	62 (93.9)	29 (90.6)	69 (94.5)	17 (77.3)	473 (99.2)	756 (95.3)	< .0001
Dexa-	Yes	11 (18.6)	NA	16 (40.0)	NA	9 (28.1)	NA	4 (18.2)	NA	40 (26.1)	
methasone	No	48 (81.4)	NA	24 (60.0)	NA	23 (71.9)	NA	18 (81.8)	NA	113 (73.9)	.090
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	

Remdesivir	Yes	12 (20.3)	NA	18 (45.0)	NA	8 (25.0)	NA	3 (13.6)	NA	41 (26.8)	
	No	47 (79.7)	NA	22 (55.0)	NA	24 (75.0)	NA	19 (86.4)	NA	112 (73.2)	.019
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	
mAb	Yes	0 (0.0)	NA	10 (25.0)	NA	12 (37.5)	NA	8 (36.4)	NA	30 (19.6)	
	No	59 (100.0)	NA	30 (75.0)	NA	20 (62.5)	NA	14 (63.6)	NA	123 (80.4)	< .0001
	missing	0	24	0	66	0	73	0	477	640	